Additional file 2: Quality appraisal tools for included quantitative studies

I. Selection bias (Sample selection for cohort studies)	Score
Representative of population of interest	2
Selected group, somewhat representative	1
Highly selected, convenient or not described	0
II. Assessment (or measurement) of exposure and or confounding variables	
Secure records, independent blind assessment	2
Independent assessment un-blinded; self-reported	1
No description or unclear how exposure was assessed	0
III. Assessment (or measurement) of outcome	
Record linkage, independent blind assessment, previously validated/reliable measures	2
Independent assessment un-blinded; self-report, novel measures (validation/ reliability data provided	1
Novel measures (no validation/reliability tests) or assessment of outcome not described	0
IV. Adequacy of follow-up and/or were all patients included	
Yes (follow-up > 95%) of patients or > 95% of all patients included	2
Reasonable follow-up of all patients or all patients included (>80%)	1
≤ 80% of patients /included patients followed-up, not described or not relevant	0
V. Adequacy of adjustment for confounding: (matching, stratification, multivariate analysis	
Yes	2
Not clear or not applicable	1
No	0
VI. If there was adjustment for residual confounding	
Study comprehensively controls for age and additional risk factors	2
Study controls for age and most plausible additional factors	1
Minimum matching or adjustment for plausible prognostic variables; no adjustment	0
VII. Attrition (missing data): If a concern was missing data handled appropriately	
Yes	2
Not clear or not applicable	1
No	0
VIII. Statistical methods adequate or appropriate and sufficiently described	
Yes	2
Not clear or not applicable	1
No	0
IX. Data presentation	
Examples of data presented allows clear understanding of data analysis and interpretation	2
Examples provided but do not present a clear interpretation of data	1
Very little data presented or incomplete recording	0